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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 01145 060915Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 /040 W
----------060917Z 080465 /20
R 041100Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8759
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGUI 1145

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV, PDIP, CT
SUBJ: DIAMOND COMPANIES CONTRIBUTE TO CORONATION

REF: BANGUI 1135

1. THE GOCAE ANNOUNCED JUNE 1 THAT EACH OF THE THREE MAJOR DIAMOND COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE CAE HAD CONTRIBUTED 25 MILLION CFA OR $100,000, FOR THE DECEMBER 4 CORONATION OF EMPEROR BOKASSA I. THE ACCOMPANYING COMMENTARY ON THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED RADIO EMPHASIZED THAT "FRIENDSHIP IS MEASURED BY THE DEGREE OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE" AND NOT SIMPLY BY "GOOD WORDS."

2. ACCORDING TO THE ACTING HEAD OF THE AMERICAN-OWNED DIAMOND DISTRIBUTORS CENTRAFRIQUE, THE THREE MAJOR DIAMOND BUYING FIRMS WERE TOLD INDIRECTLY THAT A CONTRIBUTION WAS WANTED. THE EMPEROR RECEIVED THEM WARMLY AND CALLED THE ENTIRE GOVERNMENT TOGETHER FOR A CEREMONY MARKING THEIR "GIFTS." THE GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT OTHER PRIVATE FIRMS WILL BE EQUALLY GENEROUS AND HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED A CONTRIBUTION OF 5 MILLION CFA, OR $25,000 FROM ONE BUSINESSMAN.

3. THE DDC PAYMENT OF $100,000 IS IN ADDITION TO AND SEPARATE FROM THE $100,000 WHICH THE GOCAE STILL OWES IT FOR DIAMONDS
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PAGE 02 BANGUI 01145 060915Z

SUPPLIED FOR THE CROWN. ALSO, THE GOCAE OWES ABOUT $30,000 FOR CUTTING OF THE DIAMONDS IN THE FACTORY IN WHICH DDI HAS A PART INTEREST.

4. THE $100,000 "GIFT" HAS ALREADY IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT, ACCORDING TO DDC'S ACTING MANAGER. THE AGREEMENT FOR SETTLING THE OUTSTANDING SCED DISPUTE DRAFTED LAST MONTH

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

APPARENTLY NOW HAS FULL IMPERIAL APPROVAL, AND THE EMPEROR
SAID WHEN HE RECEIVED THE CHECK THAT ALBERT JOLIS, HEAD OF THE
PARENT COMPANY OF DIAMOND DISTRIBUTORS INTERNATIONAL, COULD COME
TO SEE HIM "ANYTIME."

5. COMMENT: THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MINES RIGOBERT YOMBO
CONFIRMED TO THE AMBASSADOR JUNE 4 THAT THE EMPEROR HAD BEEN

DEEPLY MOMED BY THE DDI GIFT. ACCORDING TO YOMBO THE EMPEROR
HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH JOLIS' GENEROSITY EVEN WHEN
SCED DISPUTE WAS NOT FULLY RESOLVED. YOMBO ALSO CONFIRMED THAT
GOVERNMENT LOOKED FORWARD TO JOLIS' RETURN AND WOULD THEN LIFT
ALL MEASURES PREVIOUSLY TAKEN AGAINST SCED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIAMONDS, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, CORONATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Reference: 77 BANGUI 1135
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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TAGS: EINV, PDIP, CT, SCED, (JOLIS, ALBERT), (BOKASSA I)
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